



OUR STUDENTS, OUR SCHOOLS, OUR VOICE

Addressing Educator Shortage

MEA supports bills to recruit and retain educators and to make the profession more attractive, emphasizing workplace conditions, fair pay, and professional development as key strategies to elevate the profession. Priority bills include:

LD 34: An Act to Increase the Minimum Teacher Salary

Sponsored by Senator Teresa Pierce

The bill increases the minimum teacher salary from the current \$40,000 minimum salary to \$45,000 beginning July 1, 2026, and increases the amount by \$2500 each year until it reaches \$52,500. This bill will cost \$5 million in 2026/2027 and will need financial support for enactment.

Position: SUPPORT

Status: In the Education Committee, Public Hearing held 2/26/2025, Work Session held 3/5/2025

LD 1327: An Act to Improve and Expand Student Teaching Opportunities in Maine by Compensating Student Teaching, sponsored by

Representative Holly Sargent

This bill proposes to compensate student teachers \$500 per week and cooperating teachers \$500 per month to address the financial burden of student teaching.

Position: SUPPORT

Status: Status: In the Education Committee, Public Hearing Held on 4/25/2025

Mental Health Supports for Students

Student mental health and challenging behaviors are top concerns for MEA members. MEA supports bills designed to increase mental health support in schools and professional development and training for educators to meet the complex needs of Maine's students. Key bills include:

LD 1203: An Act to Provide Grants to Schools That Contract for Behavioral and Mental Health Services, sponsored by Senator Rachel Talbot Ross

This bill provides \$3 million per year in grants to schools to help them contract with mental health clinicians.

Position: SUPPORT

Status: In the Education Committee, Public Hearing held 4/8/2025

LD 1097: An Act to Provide De-escalation and Behavior Intervention Training for School Personnel, sponsored by Representative Murphy

This bill aims to provide additional resources and support to help educators address challenging student behaviors.

Position: SUPPORT

Status: In the Education Committee, Public Hearing Held on 4/23/2025

The MEA also supports a similar bill, LD 858.



Protect Paid Family Leave

LD 1400: An Act to Exempt Certain Public School Districts and Their Employees from the Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program

This bill exempts PFML for school all employees. The MEA opposes any effort to undo the Paid Family Medical Leave program, or to restrict school employees from accessing the program.

Position: OPPOSE

Status: In Labor Committee, Public Hearing Scheduled for 4/23/2025

Fund Maine's Future – Invest in the UMaine System

LD 1219: An Act to Increase State Funding for the Campuses of the University of Maine System and to Raise the Minimum Hourly Wage for Employees of the System sponsored by Senator Tipping

This bill addresses the financial challenges facing the University of Maine system by increasing the fiscal appropriation to UMS and setting a minimum wage of 125% of the state minimum wage for all UMS employees.

Position: SUPPORT

Status: Public Hearing Scheduled for 4/24/2025

To view the bills online scan the QR code or visit maineea.org/actioncenter



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